

should pause to remember the enormous price paid by all Americans in our country's quest to realize its promise.

Juneteenth honors the end of the 400 years of suffering African Americans endured under slavery and celebrates the legacy of perseverance that has become the hallmark of the African American experience in the struggle for equality.

The poet Langston Hughes reminds us in his famous poem, "Mother to Son," life in America for African Americans "ain't been no crystal stair."

The post-bellum period in America was marked by violence and terrorism against African Americans as they sought to make real the promises of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

Nowhere was the reign of terror to which they were subjected more horrific than the 1921 Tulsa-Greenwood Race Massacre, which occurred a century ago this past May 31 through June 1.

Tulsa's Greenwood District was known as "Black Wall Street," and was the most prosperous African American community in the United States.

The Greenwood community with a population of over 10,000 Black people had stores that sold luxury items, 21 restaurants, 30 grocery stores, a hospital, a savings and loan bank, a post office, three hotels, jewelry and clothing stores, two movie theaters, a library, pool halls, a bus and cab service, a nationally recognized school system, six private airplanes, and two black newspapers.

But on May 31st of that year, the 35 city blocks of Greenwood went up in flames, at least 300 Black persons were murdered and more than 800 were injured; it is estimated that not less than 9,000 were left homeless and destitute.

The message of the Tulsa Race Massacre was clear to Black America: "Stay in your place. Do not attempt to accumulate and bequeath wealth or own property. Remember your history in America is as chattel property."

If they were still alive, the domestic terrorists of the mob in Greenwood would see their evil reenacted—and then followed by a similar attempt to cover it up and foster collective amnesia—a century later in the siege and desecration of the hallowed halls of the U.S. Capitol, the 'Citadel of Democracy'.

It should not be overlooked that the source of the January 6 white mob's irrational anger, hatred, and violent reaction was that Black Americans voted in overwhelming numbers in Atlanta, Detroit, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, and other enclaves to oust the most pro-White supremacy President since the Civil War.

Some might ask "Why dwell on the past? Let us forget unpleasant things and move on into the future."

My answer is to quote the great southern writer William Faulkner: "The past is never dead. It is not even the past."

The hatreds, prejudices, resentments, and white supremacy that Black Americans witnessed and suffered in Greenwood a century ago are not dead; they are not even past.

So my message to the descendants of the survivors and victims of slavery, America's Original Sin, is to keep fighting for justice, to never be silent, to affirm the truth, and seek accountability.

In his famous Second Inaugural Address, President Lincoln spoke of the profound moral

debt owed for "all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil," and that the Civil War was the judgment of the Lord, which was "true and righteous altogether."

That debt remains to be paid, which is why African Americans have always peacefully petitioned the government for the redress of its grievances.

As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said at the 1963 March on Washington:

"In a sense, we have come to our Nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.

"This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

"It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked 'insufficient funds.' But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check—a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice."

In recent years, a number of National Juneteenth Organizations have arisen to take their place alongside older organizations—all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures.

But it must always remain a reminder to us all that liberty and freedom are precious birthrights of all Americans, which must be jealously guarded and preserved for future generations.

I am pleased to see this important legislation before this Committee on the eve of it becoming law.

IN RECOGNITION OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE PAUL MITCHELL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Michigan Representative Paul Mitchell. He served Michigan's 10th District from 2017 until his retirement at the beginning of this year. After being diagnosed with Stage IV renal cancer this month, he recently underwent multiple surgeries in addition to starting immunotherapy treatment. Even though my heart hurts for Paul and his family, I know he is courageous and brave, and I know he will fight through this illness.

Representative Mitchell served on numerous committees, including on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the House Committee on Armed Services. As a member of Congress, Representative Mitchell was a

champion for Michigan's families and small businesses, as well as a strong advocate for our armed forces and strengthening our national security.

As a colleague and a friend, Representative Mitchell has always been a man of principle and has been committed to working with others for the betterment of this nation. He's crossed party lines to work on police reform and joined the bipartisan fight to keep Michigan's Great Lakes safe and clean for all. In his last term as a Member of Congress, he notably stood up for democracy during the 2020 election even when it was an unpopular position for him to take. His bravery will be a part of his legacy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking former Representative Paul Mitchell for his leadership and service. I join the entire Michigan delegation in sending our colleague Paul Mitchell and his family strength and love as he begins treatment and conveying our many thanks to the team at Henry Ford Health System for their continued care.

IN MEMORY OF PATRICIA O'SULLIVAN SRAMEK

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Patricia O'Sullivan Sramek, a lifelong resident of Long Beach, California, an outstanding person, and a dear personal friend. Patti passed away suddenly in her home on June 16, 2021.

She is survived by her husband Nicholas, her children David and Bridget, her daughter-in-law Mary, her grandchildren Eleanor, Abraham, Ingrid and Levi, and her brother Patrick Burke. She was a sister-in-law to Debbie, Hilda and Kathy. She was a loving aunt to Patrick, April, Tom, Tracy, Alex and Carla. She was predeceased by her parents Patrick O'Sullivan and Marguerite (Margie) O'Sullivan.

Patti was born in 1942 in Long Beach, California. She grew up in West Long Beach, where she lived with her family, and attended Poly High School. She met her future husband Nick, whose family lived half a mile away on Delta Avenue. On July 27, 1968 they were married in a small ceremony at St. Lucy's Parish and their reception was held on a rainy afternoon in her parents' backyard—she always noted that the rain was good luck. She and Nick moved to North Carolina where he was enlisted in the United States Army at Fort Bragg. In August 1970 and September 1976, she and Nick welcomed their children into the world at Long Beach Memorial Hospital.

Patti held many jobs in her life including making milkshakes at Tom's Burgers on Santa Fe Avenue as a teenager and sewing pockets on pants in a factory in Sanford, North Carolina. She was a champion for the communities of the West Side and served as a Field Deputy for the City of Long Beach's Seventh Council District for many years. She was known for driving the neighborhood daily to spot sidewalks and streets that needed repairs and to visit with neighbors. Along with her brother Burke, Patti helped care for her aging parents Pat and Margie prior to their passing. She later retired and welcomed her four

grandchildren in succession—Ella, Abe, Ingrid and Levi. She was a devoted and beloved grandmother who was known simply as “GG”.

Patti was a towering beauty, a one-in-a-million woman, and a force of nature. She was famous for her ability to strike up a conversation with anyone and everyone she crossed paths with. She loved a good martini, big sunglasses, Frank Sinatra, art museums and beautiful gardens. As COVID-related restrictions began to lift, she daydreamed about traveling the English and Irish countryside. She would say that in her life she was most proud of her 52-year marriage, motherhood, and the fierce love she held for her family. She will be greatly missed, but her family takes comfort that she has joined her mother and father whom she adored.

EXTENSION OF MANAGEMENT PLANNING DEADLINE FOR NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS DESIGNATION UNDER THE 2019 DINGELL ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduced a bill to extend the statutory deadline for submitting a management plan for the six National Heritage Areas designated under the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–9).

Current law directs the local coordinating entity for each National Heritage Area to submit a management plan to the National Park Service within three years of the date of enactment: March 12, 2022. However, due to the COVID–19 pandemic, many of the local coordinating entities need additional time to finalize their management plans, including completing a robust public engagement process not possible during much of 2020.

As Deputy Secretary of the Interior during the Clinton Administration, I know that local coordinating entities for National Heritage Areas need sufficient time to prepare effective management plans that reflect substantial public feedback. The John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–9) included the House sponsor of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Act, of which I sponsored with Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN (D–CA). More time will allow California’s first and the other newly designated National Heritage Areas to conduct greater public engagement, preform fulsome tribal consultations, and complete all necessary field work to ensure these new National Heritage Areas are set up for success.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representatives MCKINLEY (R–WV), SMITH (D–WA), SCHRIER (D–WA), KILMER (D–WA), JAYAPAL (D–WA), GRIJALVA (D–AZ), and STRICKLAND (D–WA) for their support as original cosponsors. I look forward to working with Natural Resources Chairman RAÚL GRIJALVA to ensure this critical piece of legislation becomes law.

RECOGNIZING FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND PREPAREDNESS JARED MAPLES ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former Director of the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Jared Maples on his retirement.

Director Maples retirement from public service is much deserved. Prior to working at New Jersey’s Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, Director Maples served his country for over a decade at the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the U.S. Department of Defense.

As Director of the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security, Jared Maples committed himself to making life safer for all residents of New Jersey. He led New Jersey’s counterterrorism efforts, and cybersecurity efforts and served as a critical link in New Jersey’s COVID–19 response. Director Maples was a staunch advocate for the interfaith community and worked hard to ensure that they remained safe from bias crimes. I was honored to participate on numerous events with Director Maples and found him to be an individual who truly cares about the safety and well-being of all residents in my district and throughout New Jersey.

I commend Director Maples for his work, and I know I speak on behalf of my constituents when I say congratulations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, regrettably, I was not able to vote on June 22, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 173, and YEA on Roll Call No. 174.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. THOMAS JAMES OSBORNE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Thomas James Osborne, beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, community leader, and sports enthusiast.

Tom was born January 5, 1956, in St. Cloud, Minnesota, to Irene and Bill Osborne. Tom was the third of eight children. He graduated from high school from Central High School in Billings, Montana in 1974. At a

young age, he developed a love for adventure, sports, and the great outdoors. Tom received a basketball scholarship to Eastern Montana College (now Montana State University–Billings) and earned a bachelor’s degree in Physical Education, graduating in 1978.

Tom founded the Big Sky State Games, an Olympic-style sports festival in Montana, and served as the executive director from 1985 to 1993. In addition, he served as the executive director of the National Congress of State Games from 1993 to 2003 and assisted in the creation of the States Games of America. Tom also served as a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee Board of Directors from 1996 to 2000.

Tom met his wife, Amy (Tompson), during a fly-fishing class in Billings in 1995. Tom and Amy began dating, and he immediately started a careful pursuit for her heart and the hearts of her children, Ellie and Ben. After five years, they were married on November 3, 2001, in Midland, Texas, and became a family.

In 2003, Tom and his family began a new adventure, moving to Colorado Springs so that Tom could join Colorado Springs Sports Corporation as the president and CEO. It didn’t take long for Tom to find his footing in the Pikes Peak region. He quickly worked to bring various sporting events to Colorado Springs, including the Warrior Games, Pikes Peak Air-strip Attack, premier cycling events, youth sports programs, and much more, including the Labor Day Lift Off. In addition, Tom served as the Chairman of the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb for over a decade and was a member of the World Arena Board of Directors.

Tom and Amy were members of the Pauline Chapel at The Broadmoor, attending the interdenominational service. Much of Tom’s work coincided with non-profits across the community, helping people in all situations, including troubled youth and veterans, to find respite care and comfort in sports and the great outdoors. When asked about his relationship with the Lord, Tom would say, “Me and Jesus, (crossing his fingers) we’re good.”

Tom is described by his wife Amy, and his many co-workers, as the kindest, most supportive, humble, ambitious dreamer they have ever known. He had an extensive network of friends, staff, and community who often found themselves in awe of Tom’s ambition and vision. A few words that Tom scribbled inside of a book cover sum up his life perfectly, “Bars are meant to be raised,” and indeed, he raised them.

Tom is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 20 years, Amy; children: Ellie (Cameron) Kuehn and Ben (Kassy) Haughton; grandchildren: Charlie Rose and James Bridges; siblings: Doug (Jan) Osborne, Pat (Kathi) Osborne, Jeanne (Larry) Fritz, Mary (Michael) Andres, Cathy (Mark) Johnson, Jan (Doug) Grotiz, Will (Tina) Osborne; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws.

Tom leaves a legacy in which no stone went unturned and no mission unconquered. Because of his ability to dream big, countless children and adults have a life-long passion for sports and athletics, many of whom made a career out of these passions. The lasting impact of his influence in the sports and outdoors community of the Pikes Peak region will endure and benefit many generations to come.